

REMARKS

The Examiner's allowance of claims 1-5, 8-13, 15-27, 30, 37 and 38 is acknowledged and appreciated.

Claims 31-36 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Hack et al. (US 6,894,461). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection because the cited reference does not disclose (or suggest) inserting a switch in an electrical path from each of the voltage input sources for conducting current from and blocking current to the voltage input sources, as described in the claims.

Similar to the subject matter of allowed independent claims 1, 15, 26 and 37, independent claim 31 is also directed to a buck-boost converter for converting voltages from a number of input voltage sources to at least one DC output voltage. A switch is provided in the electrical path from each of the input voltage sources for selectively conducting current from and blocking current to the voltage inputs.

As previously discussed in Amendment B, the Hack et al. reference relates to a system for providing bidirectional power conversion for multiple buses. Referring to Fig. 3 of the reference, Hack et al. discloses that any one bus B0-BN has the ability to take power from or pass power to any of the other buses in the circuit (see col. 5, lines 32-50). The connections between these buses are controlled through switches S0-SN which open and close "to change the flow of power among various buses B0 141-BN 143" (col. 4, lines 10-11). Thus, the Hack et al. reference clearly teaches using switches that allow bidirectional power flow between two or more power components.

As described in claim 31, and also in allowed independent claims 1, 15, 26 and 37, the present invention includes switches that conduct current from and block current to the voltage input sources. In contrast, the Hack et al. reference expressly teaches using bidirectional switches which enable current to flow in both directions, i.e., to and from voltage sources. For at least this reason, claims 31-36 are allowable over Hack et al.

For all of the above reasons, the application is now believed to be in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested. The Examiner should contact the undersigned attorney if a telephone conference would expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

GREER, BURNS & CRAIN, LTD.

By



B. Joe Kim

Registration No. 41,895

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300 South Wacker Drive, Suite 2500
Chicago, Illinois 60606
(312) 360-0080
Customer No. 24978